

Educator Licensure

Federal Programs Institute 2025





Agenda

- Licensure Rule and Policy Updates
- Updates & Reminders
- Emergency Credentials
- Resources



Meet the Licensure Team!

Jessie Gold

Director of Licensure Operations

Michael Hughes

Senior Manager of TASL

Jen Kersey

Occupational Licensure Specialist



Brooke Ruoff

*East Regional
Licensure Consultant*

Corey Cummings

*Middle Regional
Licensure Consultant*

Cordrea Nance

*West Regional
Licensure Consultant*

Rule and Policy Updates

Corey Cummings

Middle Regional Licensure Consultant

SBE Meeting Updates

Assessment Policy *on Final Read*

The following updates were approved on *final read* during the November 2024 SBE meeting and are **currently in effect**.

- **ILL Reactivation:** The NES 815 assessment is now available as an option for candidates seeking reactivation of an expired Instructional Leader License

SBE Meeting Updates

Licensure Policy *on Final Read*

The following updates were approved on *final read* during the February 2025 SBE meeting and are **currently in effect**.

- **Endorsement Flexibilities:** Removed of specific grade bands from ‘one-up, one-down’ flexibilities
 - What will this look like? For example, an educator with an English 6-8 endorsement could now teach courses in the same endorsement area in grades 5 and 9.
- **Adding Endorsements:** Expanded pathways for adding additional endorsements
 - Detailed in the updated Educator Licensure Operations document
- **Provisional Endorsements:** Added new provisional endorsements
 - Provisional Integrated Early Childhood Education Birth-K
 - Provisional Integrated Early Childhood Education pre-K-3

Endorsement Flexibilities

All educators can teach one grade level above and one grade level below the grade band on their endorsement within their endorsement area.

Educator holds...	They can teach...
K-5 elementary endorsement	PreK
Old K-6 elementary endorsement	Any subject in 7 th grade
Middle Grades Math Endorsement	5 th grade Math 9 th grade Math CANNOT teach Algebra 1 because the EOC rule trumps the grade span flexibilities

Adding Endorsements

Assessment Only – Educator only needs to pass the content assessment(s) for that endorsement area.

- If the endorsement requires multiple assessments, they must have passing scores on ALL assessments.
- Educator will submit the add endorsement request once they have the necessary assessments on file.

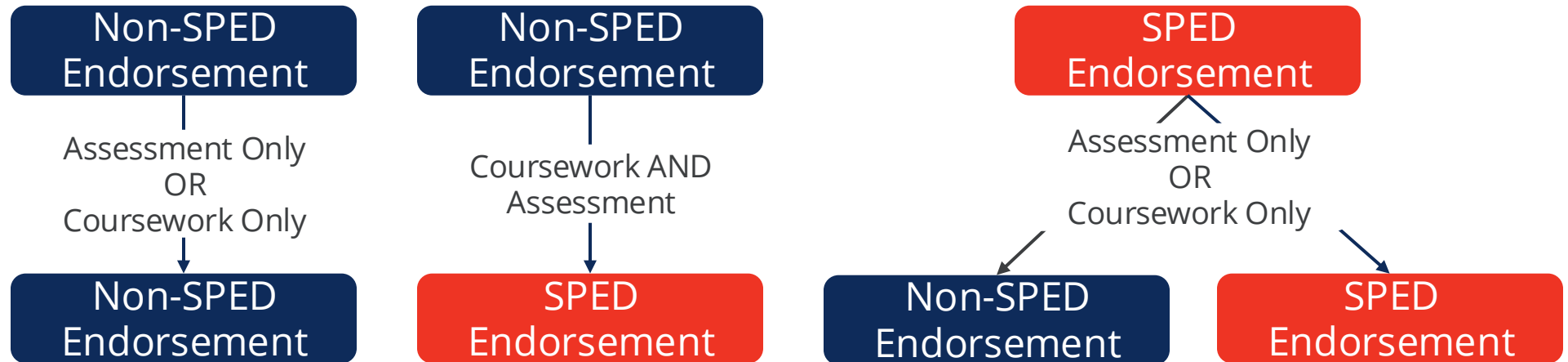
Coursework Only – Educator must complete the coursework for an additional endorsement program but will not need to take the assessments.

- This requires completion of the full additional endorsement program as approved by the state
- EPP submits the transaction on behalf of the educator once coursework has been completed

Adding Endorsements

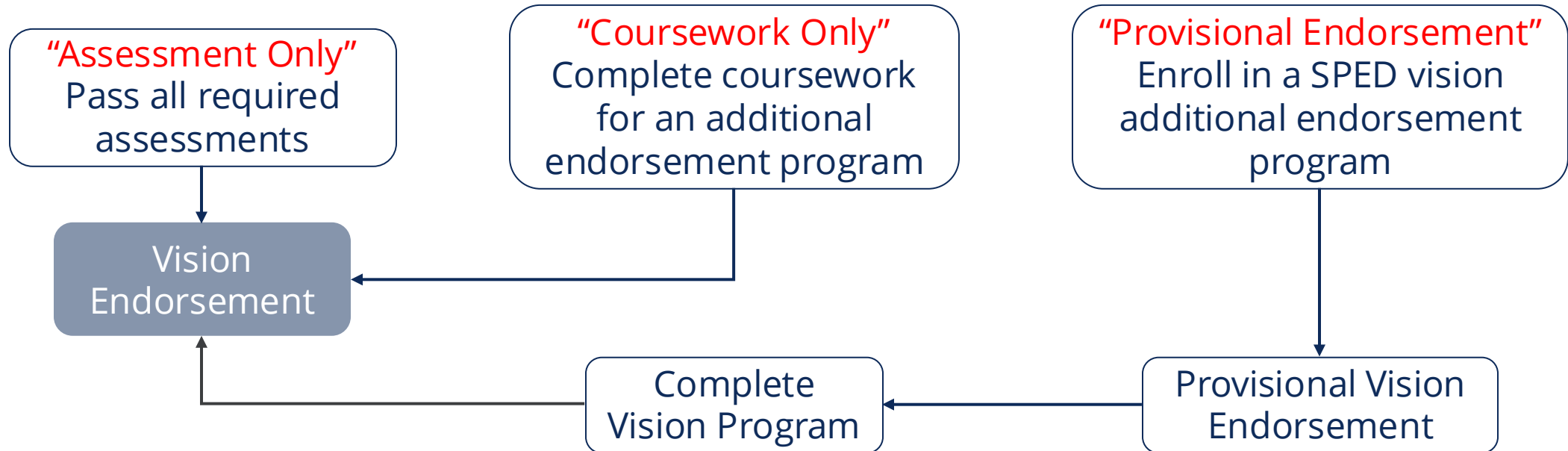
The updated additional endorsement chart boils down to this:

- Any educator can add any endorsement that isn't SPED through assessment only or coursework only
- SPED educators can add any other SPED endorsement through assessment only or coursework only
- Educators without a SPED endorsement will need to complete both coursework and pass the assessment to add SPED endorsements



Adding Special Education Endorsements

Mr. Johnson holds a Comprehensive SPED endorsement and would like to add the SPED Vision endorsement.



Emergency Credentials

Brooke Ruoff

East Regional Licensure Consultant

Emergency Credentials

- An emergency credential is **not** a license
- Educators enrolled in a job-embedded program **MUST** hold a practitioner license during their job-embedded clinical practice.
- Application window for emergency credentials opens **July 1st**
- All emergency credentials expire on **June 30th**
- Emergency credentials **CANNOT** be issued for positions requiring an *ILL* or a *School Service Personnel License*

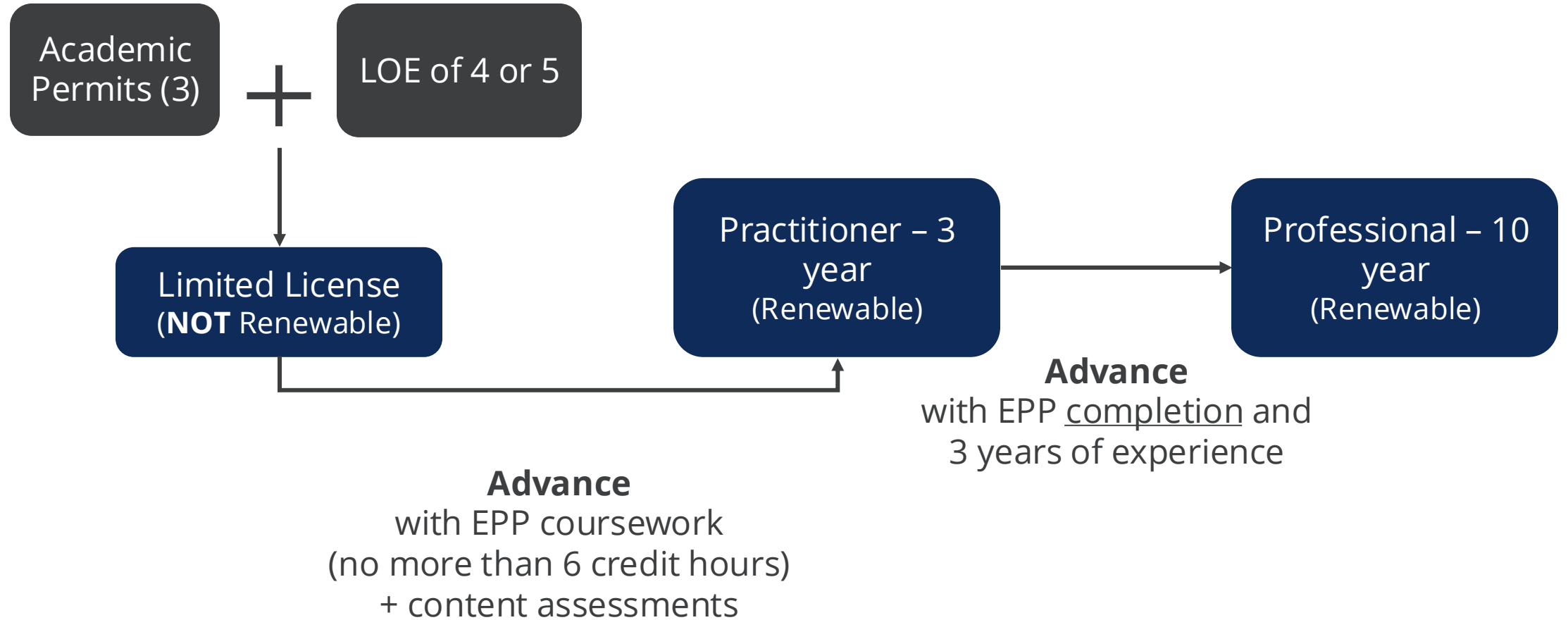
Emergency Credentials

Characteristics	Academic Permit	Clinical Practice Permit	Waiver
Validity Period	Valid through June 30 th following issuance	Valid through June 30 th following issuance	Valid through June 30 th following issuance
Max. Allowed	Three	One	Three
Course Options	Academic Courses	Academic Courses	Academic Courses or Occupational CTE Courses
Course Restrictions	Special Education, Personal Finance	Special Education, Personal Finance	Special Education
EOC Course Requirements	Assigned mentor teacher	Passing score on content assessment	No special requirements
General Requirements	Minimum of Bachelor's Degree, Recruitment Documentation	Enrollment in State Board-Approved EPP, Completed All Coursework Except Clinical Practice, Recommendation Letter from EPP, Must complete entire clinical practice on CPP	Active Teaching License

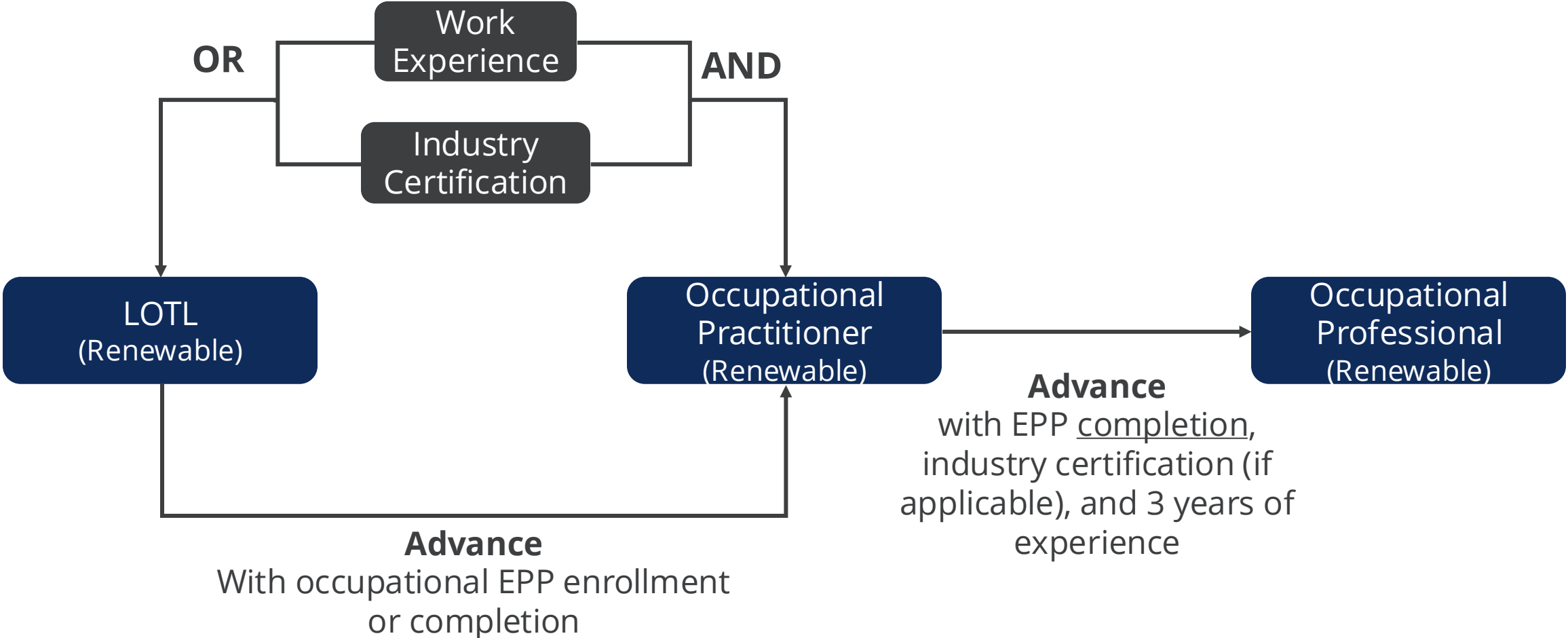
Limited Licenses

Characteristics	Limited License	Limited Occupational Teaching License
Validity Period	2 years	3 years
Course Options	Academic Courses	Career and Technical Education (CTE) Courses
Renewable?	No – can be advanced to Practitioner by completing courses and passing assessments	Yes – needs LOE of 4 or 5 during the first two years of each validity period
Advancement	Coursework through a state board approved EPP (no more than 6 credit hours); Assessment scores	Enrollment in or completion of an EPP (occupational)
Course Restrictions	Special Education, Personal Finance, EOCs	N/A
General Requirements	Held 3 permits, earned 4 or 5 on most recent LOE, agree to pursue State-Board approved pathway	Minimum of a High School Diploma, Recommendation, Experience OR Industry Certification, Assigned Mentor

Academic Licenses



Occupational Licenses



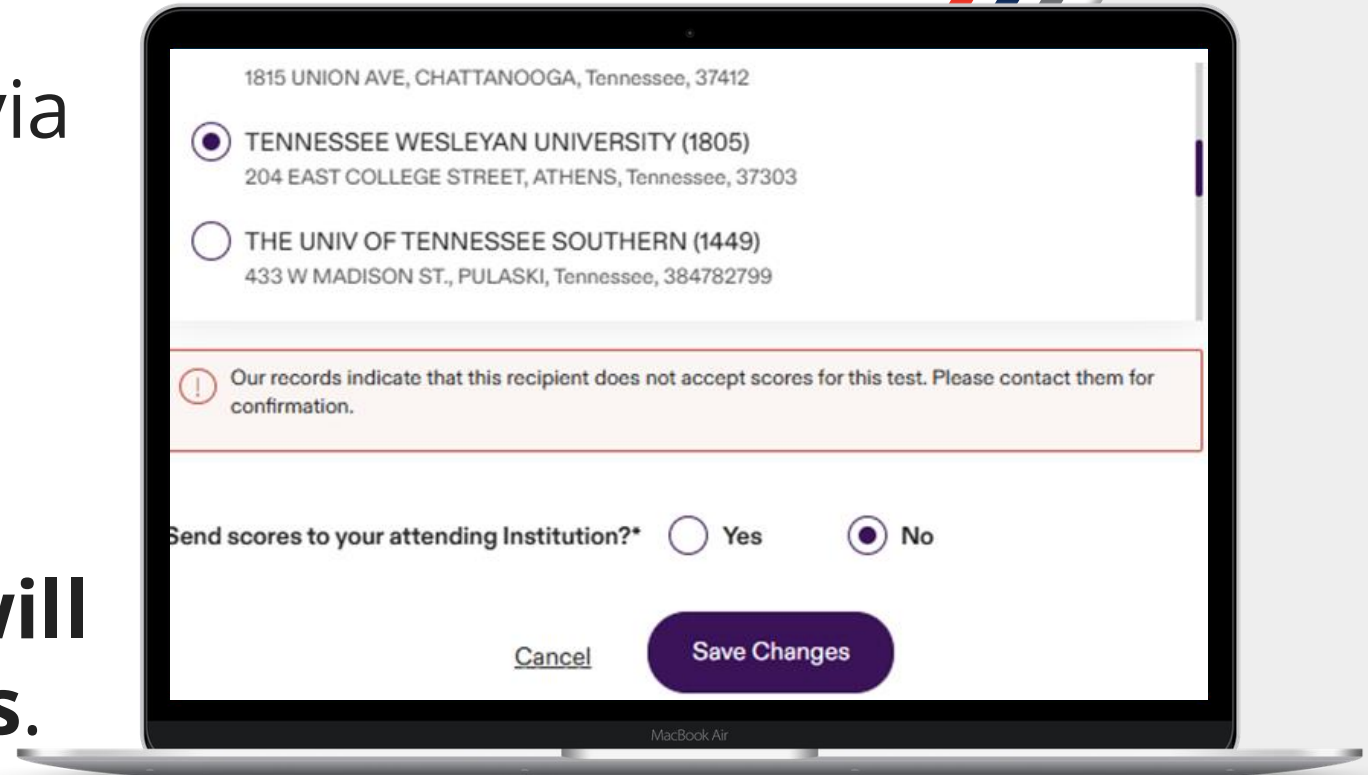
Updates & Reminders

Cordrea Nance


West Regional Licensure Consultant

Assessment Reminders

- Always check [Assessment Policy 5.105](#) for accepted tests and deadlines.
- Educators should register via the [TN-specific ETS webpage](#) to avoid non-accepted assessments.
- If taken, scores from unaccepted assessments **will not appear in TNCompass.**



The screenshot shows a laptop screen displaying the ETS registration form. The form includes the following information:

- Address: 1815 UNION AVE, CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee, 37412
- Selected Institution: ☒ TENNESSEE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY (1805)
204 EAST COLLEGE STREET, ATHENS, Tennessee, 37303
- Unselected Institution: ☐ THE UNIV OF TENNESSEE SOUTHERN (1449)
433 W MADISON ST., PULASKI, Tennessee, 384782799
- Warning Message:  Our records indicate that this recipient does not accept scores for this test. Please contact them for confirmation.
- Question: Send scores to your attending Institution?* ☐ Yes ☒ No
- Buttons: [Cancel](#) and [Save Changes](#)

The laptop is a MacBook Air, as indicated by the text at the bottom of the screen.

Additional Assessment Reminders

- Praxis scores must be sent **directly from ETS** to TNCompass—educator uploads are **not accepted**.
- Educators must Provide **full SSN** and designate **TDOE (code 8190)** when registering or ordering score reports.
- Lack of a **full SSN** or recipient code **prevents scores from posting** to TNCompass, requiring resubmission and possible fees

board - Dashboard X Operations - Licensure Operation X ets tennessee - Search X Tennessee RequiredTest X

sts.html#:~:text=Tests%20Required%20by%20Tennessee.%20Find%20your%20certification%20area%20below%20to

& Prep Learn More Tomorrow's Teacher

Certifying State or National Agency

Tennessee GO

Required Tests Overview

Tests Required by Tennessee

State Agency

Tennessee State Department of Education

Find your certification area below to determine which test(s) you need to take. For test preparation materials, select the "View test details" link. If you are ready to register, you may add up to 4 tests to your cart before continuing on to scheduling.

Important notice:
The Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) accepts score reports from ETS directly, via TNCompass. Educators **MUST** provide their full social security number and designate TDOE (code 8190) as a recipient. Please note that if you did not designate 8190 as the score recipient code and provide your full social security number, the scores will not report to TNCompass and will need to be resent with corrections, which may involve an additional reporting fee. Score reports sent by educators are not accepted.

Assessments that may be used for admission to educator preparation programs

Principles of Learning and Teaching

A pedagogical knowledge assessment may be required for individuals applying through an out-of-state pathway on the basis of completion of an approved out-of-state educator preparation program, as well as for occupational licensure applicants. Please review the Tennessee State Board of Education [Policy 5.105: Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators](#) to determine the assessment requirements for

Accreditation Update

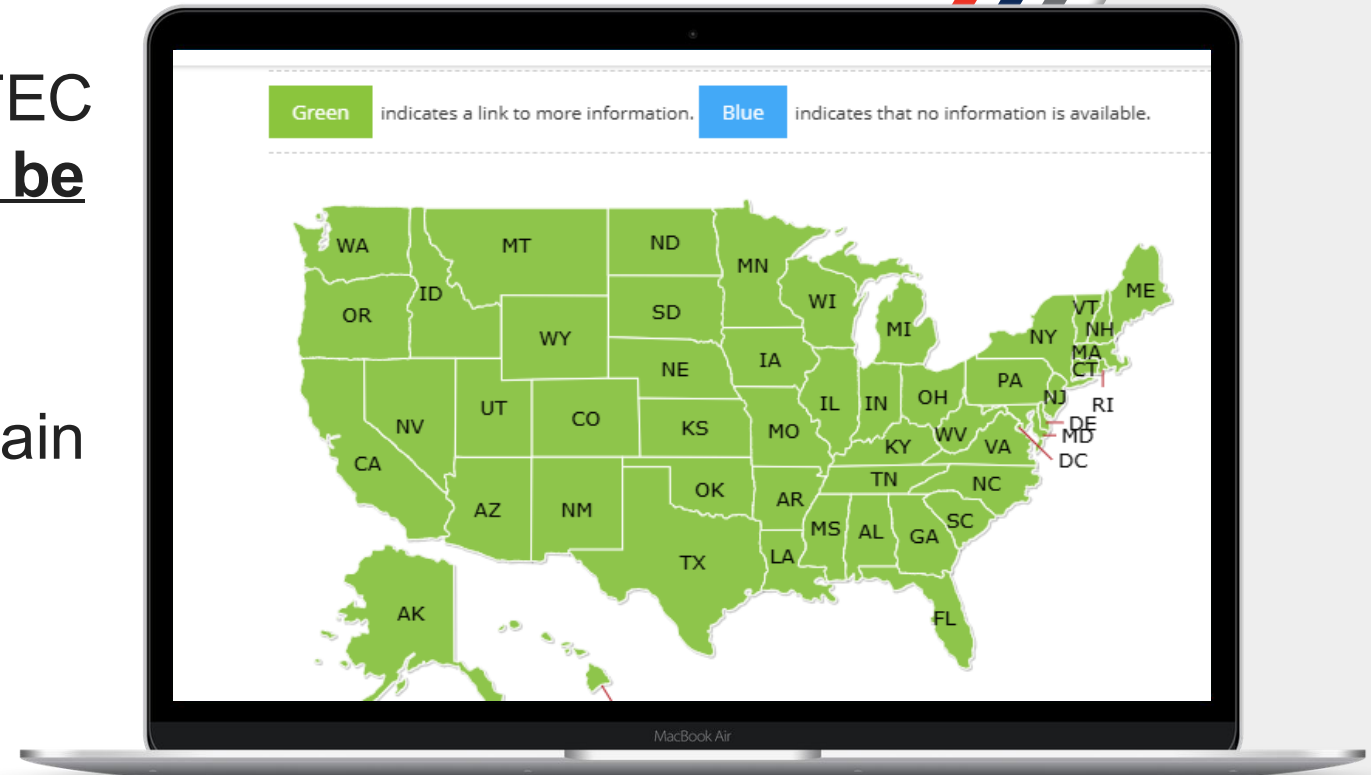
- **Previously:** only Regionally Accredited degrees are accepted
- A rule change allows degrees from institutions accredited by CHEA or the U.S. Department of Education
- **Now:** will accept degrees from accrediting agencies listed under **Part I of the CHEA list** ([CHEA website](#))



**CHEA and
USDOE Accreditors
now available!**

Arizona Reciprocity Update

- The Arizona "*Standard Professional Teaching Certificate with Deficiencies*" **does not** meet NASDTEC reciprocity requirements and **cannot be accepted** in Tennessee.
- Previously reciprocated licenses remain valid, but educators must meet **Tennessee renewal/advancement requirements** upon expiration.



Special Education Endorsement Guidance

The **course catalog provides guidelines** on which endorsements are needed to serve as the teacher of record for that course.

Some endorsements may apply to a course, but **specific student needs—such as those outlined in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)—could have additional requirements.**

We encourage you to **read all course details**, including the Notes section for more specifics.

Resources

Licensure Resources

All resources listed below can be found on the [Licensure Resources Page](#).

- Recently Released
 - [Licensure Operations Document](#)
 - corrections throughout with a focus on expanded additional endorsement pathways
- Other Key Guidance Docs
 - [Permit to Licensure Pathways](#)
 - Licensure Guidance Documents:
 - [Adjunct Licensure Guidance](#)
 - [JROTC Licensure Guidance](#)
 - [Instructional Leadership Licensure Guidance](#)
 - [Postsecondary Educator Licensure Guidance](#)
 - [School Service Personnel Guidance](#)
 - [Teacher \(Academic\) Licensure Guidance](#)
 - [Occupational Licensure Endorsement Guidance](#)



2025

**FEDERAL
PROGRAMS
INSTITUTE**

**MEMPHIS
TO
BRISTOL**

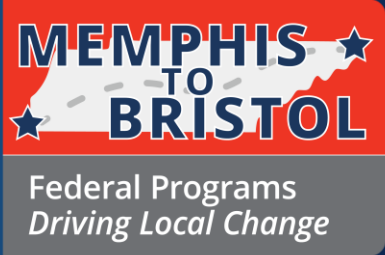
Federal Programs
Driving Local Change

Please share your session feedback



You may access the PD Survey by navigating here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/sbRAwQUV0d>



Up Next...

Click one of the links below to seamlessly join the next session of your choice.

2:00-3:10 p.m. ET 1:00-2:10 p.m. CT	A Guide to Internal Controls Holly Kellar, Jill Lewis, Joshua Dehnz
	Title II, Strategic Planning with Funds Michelle Harless
	Crossroads of ESSA Implementation: Flexibilities and Waivers Debby Thompson



Thank You!

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Middle TN: Corey Cummings – Corey.Cummings@tn.gov

East TN: Brooke Ruoff – Brooke.Ruoff@tn.gov